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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(✓) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part (✓) In Full
() Classify as __ () Extend as __ () Downgrade to __
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason ____

[redacted] **DECAPTIONED**

E.O. 12065: XDS-4 2/12/00 (CASTRO, RAUL H.) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: [redacted] MORE ON COLLABORATIONS AND REHABILITATION CENTERS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1185

.. [redacted]- ENTIRE TEXT.)

. WE HAVE NOW TALKED TO A USUALLY RELIABLE AND WELL INFORMED MEMBER OF THE SECURITY FORCES ABOUT THE "VISITING DISAPPEARED" AND THE REPORT THAT THEY ARE HELD IN A BUENOS AIRES DETENTION CENTER (REFTEL).

. OUR SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT THE VISITING DISAPPEARED ARE "COLLABORATORS". SUCH COLLABORATORS EXIST IN SMALL NUMBERS IN ALL MAJOR ARGENTINE CITIES, HE SAID. THEY ARE RECRUITED FROM CAPTURED TERRORISTS OR VOLUNTARY DEFECTORS. RATHER THAN PENETRATION AGENTS OF THE TERRORIST MOVEMENT, THEY ARE USED BY THE SECURITY FORCES TO HELP IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF ACTIVE TERRORISTS, TO EVALUATE INTELLIGENCE AND IN GENERAL TO BE A WELL INFORMED RESERVOIR OF INFORMATION THAT SECURITY FORCES CAN CONSULT.

. OUR SOURCE DENIED THAT THERE NOW EXISTS A "REHABILITATION

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CENTER," THOUGH SUCH INSTITUTIONS EXISTED IN THE PAST. HE SAID THAT THESE "COLLABORATORS" ARE NOW PROVIDED

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WITH INDIVIDUAL HOUSING AND JOBS. IN ADDITION, THEY MAY UNDERGO "REHABILITATION" -- TRAINING DESIGNED TO HELP THEM FIND A NEW, SECURE LIFE. THE SECURITY FORCES BELIEVE THAT THE COLLABORATORS MUST BE PROTECTED IN THIS WAY FROM INEVITABLE RETALIATION BY THEIR FORMER TERRORISTS COLLEAGUES. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE, THE COMPARTMENTALIZATION OF SECURITY OPERATIONS IS SUCH THAT IF A COLLABORATOR IS WORKING FOR, SAY, THE ARMY, THE AIR FORCE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT IT. PROTECTIVE CUSTODY, THEREFORE, IS ALSO INTENDED TO PROTECT THE COLLABORATOR FROM THE ARREST BY OTHER SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS.

4. COMMENT: AT THE MOMENT WE CANNOT CONFIRM OR DENY THE ACCURACY OF THE SOURCE'S CLAIM THAT THE "REHABILITATION CENTERS" NO LONGER EXIST. ON THE OTHER HAND, HIS DISCRIPTION OF THE ROLE AND RATIONALE OF THE "VISITING DISAPPEARED" IS MOST PLAUSIBLE.

5. REGARDING THE BRODSKY CASE, THE FAMILY HAS RECONSIDERED ITS REQUEST THAT WE INVOLVED OURSELVES, ASKING THAT WE WITHHOLD ANY ACTION FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, AT LEAST.
CASTRO

[redacted]

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